

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

13 June 2013

ACTIVITIES OF THE LICENSING TEAM 2013.

REPORT OF HEAD OF LICENSING

Contact Officer: John Myall Tel No: 01962 848443

RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report outlines the activities of the Licensing Team of the Legal Services for the year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the report be noted.

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

13 June 2013

ACTIVITIES OF THE LICENSING TEAM 2013.

REPORT OF HEAD LICENSING

DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Licensing Team is now part of Neighbourhoods and Environment and is staffed by the Head of Licensing, two Assistant Licensing Officers and a Licensing Assistant.
- 1.2 The Team is responsible for the issue of licences granted under the Licensing Act 2003, and Gambling Act 2005.
- 1.3 It regulates taxis and private hire vehicles and drivers, and private hire operators.
- 1.4 It is also responsible for the administration of street and house to house collections, lotteries, the High Street banner and the hire of St Maurice's Covert.
- 1.5 The officers also arrange burials under the Public Health Act 1936.

2 Licensing Act 2003

- 2.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003, there are currently 1169 personal licences, 580 premises licences and 43 club premises certificates.
- 2.2 During the year to date, 13 applications were received for new premises licences and 9 applications to vary premises licences. Three of the new applications were determined by the Licensing Sub Committee, and granted with conditions.
- 2.3 Applications for reviews of two premises licences were heard by the Licensing Sub Committee. Two were granted with additional conditions added to the premises licences. One of the licences was suspended for two weeks.
- 2.4 31 premises licences were transferred, and variation of designated premises supervisors amounted to 97 applications.
- 2.5 Two premises licences were surrendered and nine lapsed owing to the companies being insolvent or dissolved.

2.6 122 applications were received for personal licences. Three were from applicants with relevant convictions. The Police objected to the grant of these applications which were withdrawn.

2.7 The Council received 554 temporary event notices of which six were invalid owing to late submission. There were no counter notices issued.

3 Gambling Act 2005

3.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005, there are eight premises licences, consisting of seven betting shops and two adult gaming centres. One application was received during the year.

3.2 There are 67 alcohol licensed premises providing up to two gaming machines. Seven alcohol licensed premises hold gaming machine permits and 14 premises have club gaming machine permits. 12 applications were received during the year.

3.3 Lottery registrations and re-registrations amounted to 108 applications..

4 Taxis and Private Hire

4.2 130 hackney carriages were licensed together with 140 hackney carriage drivers.

4.3 159 private hire vehicles, 121 private hire drivers and 52 operators were licensed.

5 Banner, Collections and Miscellaneous Permits

5.1 The banner site in the High Street, between Monsoon and Vodafone, was hired on 26 occasions. This Council utilised it for seven weeks for the Olympic Games. St Maurice's Covert was let out on 82 days for charity table sales.

5.2 Permits were issued for various street collections. In the city centre, 41 collections were held and a further 71 were held outside of the city centre.

5.3 Street collection permits were also issued for carol singing. 13 took place at the Buttercross in the High Street.

5.4 Permits were issued for 19 house to house collections and the Team were notified of two house to house direct debit collections (as these are not collecting cash, these are treated as being outside of the current legislation).

5.5 Face to face fundraising by obtaining details for direct debit collections (which are not currently controlled under legislation, but which are notified to the Council under an informal agreement with the organisers) were held in the High Street, Winchester, on 102 occasions throughout the year.

6 Enforcement and Compliance

- 6.1 Officers have made visits to licensed premises, often in company with Environmental Health Officers, Police Officers, and Fire Officers.
- 6.2 Officers were also in attendance at the Boomtown Fair 2012 and the Moto Cross British Grand prix held at Matterely estate.
- 6.3 Two licensed drivers had their licences suspended for reasons relating to medical conditions
- 6.6 Three vehicle licences were suspended owing to their mechanical condition.
- 6.7 Officers visited taxi ranks out of normal office hours in order to ensure compliance with the legislation and conditions. Officers also carried out three operations in company with the Police, VOSA, and benefits officers from Winchester and Eastleigh.

7 Other duties

- 7.1 Seven public health burials were arranged by licensing officers.
- 7.2 Statistics and data were provided to organisations such as HM Revenue and Customs, the Gambling Commission and Home Office UK Immigration Service.
- 7.3 The team received ten Freedom of Information requests.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

8 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 8.1.1 The report concerns issues which relate to the Outcomes of Active Communities, a Prosperous Economy, and High Quality Environment.

9 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 9.1 The work of the Team is largely funded through fees, some of which are fixed (Licensing Act 2003) or otherwise controlled (Gambling Act 2005). Other fees are set by the Council (such as hackney carriage and private hire fees, table and chair permits, etc). Occasionally, the costs of public health burials can be recovered from the estate of the deceased, although often the estate has no funds. Any shortfall must be met from the Council's general resources.

9.2 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None